

did not overlook their conduct of affairs. His Majesty was a sincere Christian, suspecting no evil of anybody whom he had not actually found to be bad, and believing that everyone he trusted would prove honest and diligent. Consequently he used to acquiesce often in the opinion of those who were commonly about his person ; and this acquiescence proved his destruction, for those he trusted were either traitors or ignorant. The second cause was the want of wisdom or of fidelity In certain of his counsellors, of whatsoever nation they were. The third was the Ignorance or treachery of some high officers and of some governors of garrisoned towns. The fourth was the dishonesty or neglect of particular commissaries of stores and provisions for the army. The fifth cause was in the government, that due care was not taken to see that the soil was tilled, just as In normal years, In those tracts of land spared the horrors of war. The sixth cause was that his Majesty, soon after his arrival at Dublin^ did not transport an army into Scotland without waiting for the reduction of Londonderry.¹

This narrative of Plunket's Is more valuable for the opinions It expresses than the facts it contains. The resources of Ireland might be considerable but the administration was so bad that they could not be utilised. James might have sixty thousand men under arms,

but they were too badly disciplined and drilled and officered to constitute a serious danger to England, although in Ireland they proved capable of offering a tolerably prolonged resistance. Captain John Stevens, an English Jacobite who fought at the battle of the Boyne, left a narrative of his adventures during the Irish war, a portion of which was printed. In the appendix to Ranke's History of England, and all of which was edited for the Clarendon Press by R. H. Murray In

¹ A Jacobite Narrative, pp. 49-50.